

TOWN OF GREENWICH BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

LAW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Committee: Karen Fassuliotis, Chair; Elizabeth K. Krumeich

Legal Staff: Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorney

BET: Michael Mason, Chairman

Selectmen: Jill Oberlander, Select-person

Outside counsel: Timothy Herbst, Member, Marino, Zabel & Schellenberg, PLLC

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Law Department Budget

As the Town Attorney is on medical leave, Attorney Herbst presented a review of the billings by outside counsel in the last three years. He noted that the retainer agreement with Marino, Zabel & Schellenberg, PLLC (MZS) had been fully executed by the Town Attorney and the First Selectman, and had replaced the retainer agreement with Cohen & Wolf. Attorney Herbst reported that one law firm, Mitchell & Sheahan, P.C. (MS), had entered into two separate retainer agreements with the Town. MS is currently representing the Town in five employment law matters. Past billing practices of various firms were also discussed with the Committee. Attorney Herbst assured the Committee that the Acting Town Attorney, through MZS, would monitor outside counsel fees to determine whether or not the fees remained within the Department's budget. Attorney Herbst also discussed with the Committee members the proposed reduction of one attorney and one paralegal from the Table of Organization of the Law Department, as well as the engagement of MZS attorneys to support this Law Department's services to the Town government.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fassuliotis, seconded by Ms. Krumeich, the Committee voted 1-1-0 to recommend to the Board of Estimate and Taxation Budget Committee the FY21-22 Operating Budget for the Law Department (Opposed: Krumeich). Motion failed.

2. Budget Resolutions

The Committee discussed the section of the Budget Resolutions which addresses the Table of Organization (TOO) of the Town employees and the impact on the Town Operating Budget when positions are changed or left vacant under the TOO. Draft discussion points were circulated to the Committee and Attorney Ahmad for consideration. It was agreed that the Committee members with Attorney Ahmad would continue to revise this section of the Budget Resolutions for consideration by the Committee prior to the BET Budget Committee's Decision Day on March 4, 2021.

3. Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Ms. Krumeich, seconded by Ms. Fassuliotis, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth K. Krumeich Recording Secretary

Elizabeth K. Kruminch

Karen Fassuliotis

Karen Fassuliotis Chair, Law Committee